AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-16 (cancelled)

17. (currently amended) The method of claim 21 and further comprising:

engaging the inner portion of the clamp through a slot between flange segments of the clamping interface; and

applying a force to the inner portion of the clamp ~~removing~~to remove the clamp from the clamping interface.

18. (previously presented) The method of claim 21 and comprising:

aligning a tool relative to a slot between flange segments of the clamping interface;

engaging a portion of the clamp with the tool through the slot; and

using the tool to remove the clamp.

19. (previously presented) The method of claim 18 wherein the clamp includes a plurality of tabs and engaging the portion of the clamp with the tool engages at least one of the plurality of tabs .

20. (cancelled)

21. (currently amended) A method comprising:

supplying an outward force in a first direction via contacting engagement with an assembly tool against an inner portion of a clamp to enlarge an opening defined by the clamp; and

supplying a clamping force in a second direction ~~different~~generally transverse to ~~from~~ the first direction to disengage the inner portion of the clamp from

the assembly tool, thereby reducing the opening to install the clamp over a flange of a clamping interface.

22. (previously presented) The method of claim 26 wherein the releasing step comprises :

snap fitting an inverted spring portion of the clamp into the recessed groove of the clamping interface.

23. (previously presented) The method of claim 21 wherein supplying the outward force comprises:

engaging the inner portion of the clamp along a sloped surface of the assembly tool to supply the outward force in the first direction to the inner portion of the clamp prior to supplying the clamping force.

24. (cancelled)

25. (previously presented) The method of claim 23 wherein the clamp includes a plurality of tabs spaced about an inner circumference of the clamp and the assembly tool engages one or more of the plurality of tabs to bias an inverted spring portion of the clamp outwardly to install the clamp over the flange of the clamping interface.

26. (previously presented) A method comprising;

supplying an outward force in a first direction to an inner portion of a clamp via an assembly tool; and

releasing the clamp from the assembly tool by supplying a clamping force in a second direction towards a clamping interface, where the second direction is different from the first direction to install the clamp into a recessed groove of the clamping interface.

27. (previously presented) The method of claim 21 wherein the clamping interface is formed on a spindle assembly and comprising:

loading one or more discs on the spindle assembly prior to supplying the clamping force to install the clamp.

28. (currently amended) A method comprising:

positioning a clamp proximate to a spindle assembly;

supplying an outward force in a first direction to an inner portion of the clamp;

supplying a clamping force in a second direction to the clamp along an inverted portion of the clamp spaced from inner and outer edges of the clamp, where the second direction is different from the first direction and in a direction towards the spindle assembly; and

installing the inverted portion of the clamp into a recessed groove of the spindle assembly.

29. (previously presented) The method of claim 21 and comprising:

supplying the outward force to the inner portion of the clamp prior to supplying the clamping force.

30. (cancelled)

31. (previously presented) The method of claim 28 comprising:

installing one or more discs on the spindle assembly prior to supplying the clamping force.

32. (previously presented) The method of claim 23 wherein the supplying the clamping force is characterized by:

releasing the clamp from the assembly tool to snap fit the clamp into a groove of the clamping interface by supplying the clamping force step.

33. (previously presented) The method of claim 21 and comprising:

supporting at least one disc on a ledge surface of the clamping interface; and

snap fitting the clamp into a groove of the clamping interface having a surface recessed below the ledge surface of the clamping interface by the supplying the clamping force step.

34. (cancelled)

35. (previously presented). The method of claim 28 wherein the first direction is generally transverse to the second direction.

36. (cancelled)

37. (cancelled)

38. (currently amended) The method of claim 26 and comprising the step of:

positioning the ~~engaged~~ clamp proximate to the clamping interface prior to supplying the clamping force.

39. (cancelled)

40. (cancelled)

41. (new) The method of claim 26 wherein the second direction is generally transverse to the first direction.

42. (new) The method of claim 26 wherein the step of supplying the outward force comprises moving the assembly tool in the second direction to engage the inner portion of the clamp along a sloped surface of the assembly tool to supply the outward force to the inner portion of the clamp in the first direction.

43. (new) The method of claim 26 and comprising engaging an outer portion of the clamp and supplying the clamping force in the second direction to an intermediate portion of the clamp spaced from inner and outer edges of the clamp.

44. (new). The method of claim 28 wherein the outward force is supplied via an assembly tool movable in the second direction toward the spindle assembly.